



The Ames Intelligencer

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Civil War in Ames?

by Farwell T. Brown

Something like a civil war broke out in Ames one day in 1916. Nothing about it would suggest bodily harm to any local citizen; however, if you were a city council member or the mayor of our city, there was some ego damage or momentary damage to feelings.

It seems that a Nevada attorney, U.S. Alderman, on October 2 of that year came over to our city and posted on the telephone pole in front of the Ames Post Office a public notice stating that "on or before the 20th day of October 1916 a petition would be filed in District Court for severance from the city of Ames"—of that portion of Ames then usually referred to as the "Fourth Ward."

That notice stated that "A. L. Champlin, F. J. Morevets, A. T. Lerdall, and R. L. Brooks are authorized to act in behalf of the petitioners, and that they will ask that the North One-Half of Section Nine and all of Section Four in Township 83, North Range 24 of the Fifth P.M. be set aside from the City of Ames." It stated that "a majority of the resident property owners of the territory referred to have signed the petition, and that the matter will come up before the October term of the District Court, which will open October 30th."

Court records show that on October 20, 1916, such a petition was filed and that legal notice was served. A blueprint showing the territory involved in the proposed severance action was attached to the public notice.

The idea of establishing a separate town in west Ames had surfaced two years earlier, in 1914. A front-page

story in the October 22, 1914, issue of the Ames Tribune carried the headline "THREATEN TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF 'WEST AMES.'"

It stated, "Fifty members of Iowa State Faculty take steps to incorporate a new town of college community." It further stated, "They are disgusted with the carline service, the Ames hotel accommodations, and the road facilities to the college." "We can incorporate and get a real hotel built out here," a new staff member of six months said. He felt that the downtown business leaders and elected officials were holding up needed progress.

"Fifty men, most of them college faculty, held an indignation meeting in the Ames Commercial Club rooms Monday night," the 1914 story stated. T. R. Agg, professor of highway engineering, acted as chairman. Street car service was the primary complaint. Professor W. H. Meeker was named

to head a committee to study the car line franchise, and T. H. MacDonald, state highway chief engineer, was to investigate the authority of the state railroad commission over the local branch of the Ft. Dodge, Des Moines and Southern, the operators of the Interurban and Street Car services in Ames. Dean C. H. Stange, of the veterinary department, was to conduct negotiations along certain lines with the Ames Commercial Club.

As for that 1914 episode, it evaporated rapidly. One week later, the Tribune carried the account of a second meeting, with the heading "DISCLAIM THOUGHT OF SECEDING FROM THEIR MOTHER CITY. —FLAT DENIAL THAT INCORPORATION OF WEST AMES WAS PLANNED.—RESEMBLED PRAYER MEETING," the caption continued. The group remained somewhat intact and was serious, however,

A New Logo

by Kathy Svec

With this issue the Ames Heritage Association introduces a new logo. The logo was designed by recent ISU Graphic Design graduate Ken Kliven. After extensive study of various Ames history documents, Ken developed this image incorporating a train wheel and track, a fragment of a city map showing the east/west, and north/south junction of the rail lines, and the bell tower of the

First Congregational Church.

The compact and distinct logo expresses both Ames' roots as a railroad town, and its growth and development as a community, symbolized by the church tower and the 1907 map showing city boundaries. The Board of Directors initiated the logo project earlier this year. We appreciate Ken's assistance in helping us complete the project.



This is how campustown looked around 1916. Businesses were beginning to develop and they wanted first-rate city services. The Champlin Building on the southeast corner of Lincolnway and Welch is the large brick building near the center of the photo. At the far left is the livery barn operated by A.L. Champlin. This also housed the horse drawn fire wagon after the city purchased its first motorized fire truck in 1916. Because of the muddy street conditions it often took too long to get the motorized fire truck to west Ames.

about problems like irregular street car scheduling and muddy conditions between the campus and the proposed Interurban Depot downtown.

Those issues would be raised again in the 1916 activity.

Events related to that action were indicative of what might be called the growing pains that were being "visited upon" the city at that stage in its development. Ames was doing a lot in the way of city improvements, and most of it was in downtown Ames. It hadn't advanced the Fourth Ward residents' identity to have so much happening all at once—all in downtown Ames: a fine new hotel, a new city hall, the magnificent Mary Greeley Hospital, and over six miles of paving for downtown residential streets.

Where there had been complaints, now there was aggravation.

It will be recalled that the Iowa State campus, in fact all of the area west of Squaw Creek, had not originally been in Ames until the move to annex had passed by a substantial vote on the last day of December, 1892. The annexation was dated January 2, 1893. As the town developed, increasing numbers of people from the teaching staff, those otherwise employed by the growing State

College, and students chose to live in downtown Ames.

In its earliest years, housing on campus (in residence houses built on campus or in the original Main building) was for the president's family and the families of the deans and certain other faculty people. The state had established a "model farm and Agricultural College" that was once described in college literature as "being located on a beautiful farm two miles west of the Village of Ames." That was how it was in the earliest years after 1860.

Ames was totally identified with the College. The business district was in Ames. While there had been talk of locating a town contiguous to the campus even before the town was located by John I. Blair in 1864, that never happened. The towns of New Philadelphia and Ontario were laid out and had some development west of the campus about the same time as the Village of Ames began its growth. Only Ontario experienced an exist-

ence of its own for a time, because it was located on the railroad and was about as far west of the campus as downtown Ames was to the east.

The primary source of water and sewer services in west Ames until sometime in the twenties was provided by facilities on the Iowa State campus. Soon after 1897, when the Marston

water tower was built, limited capacity water lines were extended off campus to the south and west. Until 1922 off-campus sewer lines, including those built by the city, were connected to a campus plant. For such reasons extensive residential development could not occur in west Ames earlier.

As late as 1923 there were still fraternity and sorority houses located in downtown Ames. In 1916 when home economics established their "Practice House" it was located at 1203 Kellogg, downtown.

By 1916, Boone Street, which had become Lincoln Way just two years earlier, had some embryonic business that was beginning to expand and demand recognition. A. L. Champlin, who came to the area in about 1904, operated his farm south of the campus. He operated a livery barn and service at a location about where the Ames Theater is today. His grocery store with its delivery service had been in existence for a long time near



From Lincolnway looking South development in the Hayward Ave. area was nearly non-existent as shown in this 1918 photo. Here we see a drainage ditch under construction. The house on the far left is a Gordon Van Tyne catalog house. At the turn of the century until around 1940, one could order a house kit from a catalog. It would arrive, pieces cut and labeled, ready to put together much like a jigsaw puzzle.

the Welch corner, and he had built the Champlin building on the Welch corner in 1909.

All of the main area churches were in downtown Ames prior to 1916. The only campus-area church prior to that time was the Friends church on the southwest corner of Sheldon and Lincoln Way. As this severance notice was being served on the City of Ames, the Presbyterians were building their Collegiate Church at West Gate. The Methodists were right then preparing to establish the Wesley Foundation on Lincoln Way close to Campustown, and the Congregationalists built the Frisbie Student Center across from the campus on Lincoln Way that same year.

Residential development to the south of Lincoln Way or to the west of what is now Sheldon (Pike Street before 1914) was scattered, even by 1916. But a rim of rooming houses had been built in those areas beginning probably soon after 1900. Families had moved to Ames to build those rooming and boarding houses, which they then could operate while educating their children at the Iowa State College. Such development helped promote the Fourth Ward's 1916 desire for more attention from the city of Ames, the "downtown" city.

The first round in the 1916 court case was heard the week of January 17, 1917. J. Y. Luke, on behalf of the city, filed a demurrer in which he alleged that less than a majority of the

residents of the Fourth Ward of Ames had signed the petition before the court. Following arguments in the case, the judge ruled that the petition was not sufficient. As a result, on February 7, 1917, an amendment was filed by the petitioners.

What then followed was a series of court maneuvers on the part of both parties. There are five dates for trial notices that continued into 1919. The final entry in court records shows the case to have been finally dismissed under a date of March 31, 1920.

The sentiment in the campus town community for the severance idea received ample public exposure. On October 19, 1916, the Ames Evening Times carried a lengthy account of a meeting held at Welch School; the heading was "SEVERANCE IDEA RECEIVES JOLT AT MASS MEETING." Parley Sheldon, immediate past mayor, had considerable to say that evening. The news item stated that Sheldon was invited at the request of an unnamed "Fourth Warder" who wanted to know the "real and actual facts" regarding taxes paid by Fourth Ward property owners, and about expenditures in that part of Ames.

The state of affairs, regarding severance, had reached the point where many thought that it was time something be done to get the two ends of the city from their loggerhead positions. Those calling that

meeting were Dr. Proctor, a prominent Ames physician, B. F. Roberts, and W. T. Edwards. The meeting lasted from eight to eleven o'clock, and the "school house was packed." The Times reported that most of the crowd seemed to be those opposed to severance.

One or two parties, in favor of severance, spoke of the city

collecting more taxes from the Fourth Ward than were expended in their behalf; inadequate police and fire protection, inadequate sewerage, and inadequate street crossings. Complaints were aired about streetcar service and the Interurban Depot operation downtown.

Parley Sheldon reviewed some history for the audience. He told of how he had cast the deciding vote in the City Council to have the referendum that resulted in a decisive vote to annex the campus and Fourth Ward area into the city back in 1892.

"Talking of Police Protection, let me tell you there had been the statement made that you have none," he stated. "At the same time there are sixteen people in the County jail and fifteen of them are from Ames. There must have been something going on. I asked Bill Ricketts (Police Chief) who tells me that he was called out (here) to make two arrests. If I were to give you their names it would surprise you."

Sheldon pointed out the problems that they would face should severance be accomplished. Taxes, he said, were shared and expended as fairly and evenly as possible. The real issue, he felt, had been over amusements in the Fourth Ward. They had not considered what was best for the community as a whole. He told them that they had been misled.

Professor Meeker, of the School Board, reported that taxes collected in the Fourth Ward were \$2,000 less than had been spent currently in maintaining Welch School. Another speaker felt that the real issue was the desire on the part of Campustown businessmen for a greater identity.

As for the paving downtown, it was pointed out that the Fourth Ward residential development was still largely scattered, not like that of the downtown area, which was heavily built up with many homes on every block.

About school support, Sheldon pointed out that severance "means but a short time that there would (also) be a severance in the school district, and then where will you be?"

Late in the meeting, C. E. Taylor, who had circulated a petition for severance, reported that he had eight people who had come to him asking that their names be removed from the petition. Taylor, J. C. Cunningham and



The muddy street conditions are readily apparent in this photo (circa 1916-1919). Shown here is Lincolnway looking toward the campus from just west of the Squaw Creek bridge. Lincoln Way from east edge of town to the bridge was paved in 1916. West of Squaw Creek through campus town was not paved until 1921.

M. P. Cleghorn were unanimously elected to circulate a petition opposing the severance. Ed Little was named to circulate such a petition among those who resided outside of the Fourth Ward but who owned property out there.

Dean Stanton was present but had not intended to speak. There was a demand to hear from the Dean, however. He stated that he wanted to "go on record as being against the severance." He asked, "What would we call it if there should be a severance?" On that point, Sheldon stated that he did not believe that the State Board of Education would be happy about taking the College out of Ames.

A few days after that meeting at Welch School, a special committee of Fourth Ward people, on October 31, 1916, met and compiled a list of fourteen steps that needed to be taken in behalf of residents in the Fourth Ward. They concluded their report with the statement that there "was never a time when the city, the College and a large majority of the people in the Fourth Ward were so alive to the needs of that part of town." The report stated that nearly one-half of the 134 original signers of the petition had withdrawn their names. It was now time for the citizens to cooperate in getting done what was needed.

The real end to the severance movement seems to have come before the end of 1916, although the court record ran a further course. On December 21, 1916, a public meeting was held in Champlin's Hall on the corner of Welch and Lincoln Way, called by the Ames Chamber of Commerce. Ben Edwards and Parley Sheldon were speakers that evening. "They were in a jovial frame of mind," the Tribune reported. Resolutions were made in support of a new street between downtown and the campus by way of a new Sixth Street bridge over Squaw Creek. Little did they know, then, the long story that would unfold before that idea would become reality.

It was just a few years later, in 1924, that the city put up a water tower near the corner of Sheldon and Hunt streets. That facility, combined with a pumping station at the Squaw Creek bridge, brought about added water service to meet the needs of the growing population in the Fourth

Ward district of Ames. It had been perhaps two years earlier that improved-capacity sewer mains were installed on Lincoln Way to serve that area. Lincoln Way west of Squaw Creek had been paved on through Campustown in 1921. Campustown was getting out of the dust and mud. Many new businesses were locating in Campustown and many new homes were soon being built in "West Ames."

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Editor's Note: This article is from a collection of stories to be published in book form by Farwell Brown in 1992.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Monday of every month (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. at Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Monday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The Ames Intelligencer is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.

Bauge House Update

by Sharon Wirth

About 150 people attended the dedication/open house held in 95 degree heat on June 30. Darrell Henning, Decorah, in delivering the dedication address, spoke of the exemplary cooperation between numerous organizations, governmental agencies, service groups, private businesses and individual citizens exhibited throughout the project. The Ames Heritage Association is grateful to all who have provided assistance and to those who continue to contribute to the success of the Bauge Log House Restoration Project.

Special thanks are in order to those whose efforts made the event a success. This includes Darrell Henning of Decorah; Cele Burnett, Linda Zalatel, Carol Williams and Dave Ong, McFarland Park staff; Ann Watts; Kathy Svec; Bev Kudla; Old Oaken Bucket Questers; Neta Snook Questers; Oakes Ames Questers; and the Captain Greeley Questers.

The dedication/open house celebrated the reconstruction of the lean-to and the installation of reproduction windows. During the ceremony, the Neta Snook Questers presented the Ames Heritage Association with a handmade quilt designed using the "log cabin" pattern. The quilt will become part of the log house furnishings. The restoration construction work is being done by Ben Svec and Dennis Dobson of the Falls Millwork Co., Kelley, IA. Their dedication, knowledge, and craftsmanship have been critical to the project's continued progress. Scheduled to be completed this fall is reroofing of the main house with new cedar shingles and installation of protective shutters to cover the windows.

It is estimated that \$6,000 will be needed to complete the major remaining restoration components. This includes replacing the roof, shutters for the windows and doors, stabilization of the north log wall and loft floor, and stairway relocation. Fund-raising will continue for the project. Those wishing to contribute should designate their donation for the Bauge House Project, Ames Heritage Association, P.O. Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Policy Re Access to Bauge Family Log House

(Adopted March 1990 by the Ames
Heritage Association)

(Adopted July 1990 by the Story
County Conservation Board)

1. Groups requesting access to the Bauge log house should first contact the Story County Conservation Board's McFarland Park office (RR 2, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515/232-2516) between the office hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to coordinate scheduling.
2. Following registration at the McFarland Park office, registered visitors may pick up a key from the McFarland Park office and walk to the log home site by a) parking at the main parking lot and walking around the lake or b) parking at the shop building parking lot and walking north to the site. Maps are available at the office.
3. Visitors may drive to the log house site only under supervision of the McFarland Park staff. Only six vehicles per program may be driven to the site. Therefore, carpooling is recommended. The Story County Conservation Board is not responsible for any damage to personal vehicles driven to the site. The trail to the house is a service road; it is not a paved or maintained road.
4. Visitors may request the services of volunteers to provide programming at the log house. The following persons may be contacted as guides: Cele Burnett (515/232-2516); Sharon Wirth (515/233-2415); and Ann Watts (515/292-5228).
5. Registered visitors and guides will pick up the keys to the gate and the house at the McFarland Park office prior to the program and will return the keys to the McFarland Park office following the program.
6. Non-registered visitors may tour the log house at the discretion of the McFarland Park staff.
7. General park rules are applicable to visitors to the Bauge log house. Park brochures are available at the McFarland Park office.
8. Because of the fragile condition of the Bauge house, alterations and damage to the structure are absolutely not permitted.

Guidelines for Use of Hoggatt School

(Reviewed and revised June 1991)

1. To reserve Hoggatt School, please contact the Meeker School office at 515/232-6467. Reservations will be accepted during school office hours from the last week of August to the last week of May. Reservations will be recorded by school personnel; confirmations will not be sent. During the summer months, contact members of the Ames Heritage Association's Hoggatt School Committee (Bob DeHart at 515/232-5571, Bruce Kellogg at 515/232-8136, and Vern Millard at 515/233-1892).
2. At the designated date and time, a representative of the Ames Heritage Association will be available to ensure that the building is unlocked, shutters are open, and, when appropriate, a fire is started in the stove.
3. Requests for presentations about Ames's first school will require special arrangements to be made beyond the initial reservation. Contact members of the Ames Heritage Association's Hoggatt School Committee listed previously.
4. The building will not be heated

except when an authorized representative of the Ames Heritage Association is present. This person will be familiar with the operation of all physical aspects of the building. Only that representative is authorized to set and supervise the firing of the wood-burning stove and to ensure that the fire in the stove is safely extinguished before closing the schoolhouse.

5. No flammable liquids will be stored in the schoolhouse or used in connection with starting or maintaining a fire in the stove.
6. An Underwriter's Laboratory approved fire extinguisher will be kept at all times in the Hoggatt School building.
7. When the schoolhouse is in use, one or more adults will be present, one of whom must be a representative of the Ames Heritage Association. This rule will be enforced even when the building is not heated.
8. Finally, upon closing the schoolhouse, all shutters must be secured from inside the building and the door must be securely locked.



Hoggatt School, the first school in Ames, is located on the Meeker School grounds at 1900 Burnett Avenue. Restored by the Ames Heritage Association, the one-room school is authentically furnished with children's desks, the schoolmarm's desk, a wood-burning stove, and other school materials of the time (1867).

Recent Donations

The Ames Heritage Association gratefully acknowledges the following recent donations.

Elaine Bath—February, 1940 American School Board Journal, contains an extensive article on Ames High School.

Delores Moore—Book owned by O. N. Bauge for use in the Bauge Log House, plus several songbooks.

Mike King—Ames Trust and Savings Bank statements, 1936-44.

Tom Dickson—Set of Elson Readers, primer through book 6 belonging to Hazel Dickson who taught school at Bucktown, Iowa.

Pam and Larry Curtis and Chuck Benson—Glass for Bauge House windows.

Maridee Hegstrom—Portrait of Wallace Greeley, portrait of "Dad" Carr.

Kay Beckett—Sheets and pillow covers with crocheted edging for use in the Bauge Log House.

Jay Cole Simser—Chair for use in the Bauge Log House.

Neta Snook Questers—Hand made quilt and bed for use in the Bauge Log House.

Thank you for your generosity.

The Ames Heritage Association announces the publishing of

FACES OF OUR FOUNDERS: THE EARLY LEADERS OF AMES, IOWA

Compiled by the
Ames Heritage Association



From Writings by Farwell Brown, Ames Historian;
With Contributions by Kathy Svec, Ruth Jackson,
Joan Baker, Joy Munn, Edna Svec, Suzanne Kelly,
William Peterson, Sharon Wirth, and Robert Hilton;
and Adaptations from Gladys Meads

A 40-page book based on the materials gathered for Ames' 125th anniversary exhibition. Featured are a detailed time line through 1916, 22 biographies of early leaders and 35 photographs of personalities, families and places.

\$6.00

On sale at University Bookstore (local interest section), Travel Genie, Brunnier Gallery Shop, The Octagon Shop, and Mary Greeley Hospitality Shop.

Proceeds from sale of the book will help to fund the Bauge House Restoration and other Ames Heritage Association projects.

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